

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

As an experiment in order to try and achieve better coverage this bulletin will also be relayed on 10,130 MHz as regularly as possible. Reception reports on this frequency will be appreciated.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that we have to announce the passing away of Shabier Sonwadi, ZS6SAA, on Monday 9th February. In his early year of ham radio he was active in the West Rand branch. He will be sorely missed. He is survived by his wife Sureya, ZS6SR, and two children. Our sincerest sympathies to them, other relatives and friends.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

SARL COUNCIL POSTAL BALLOT NO LONGER NECESSARY

CALL TO MEMBERS TO UPDATE EMAIL ADDRESSES

EAST RAND CLUB SAYS THANKYOU

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

SARL COUNCIL POSTAL BALLOT NO LONGER NECESSARY

Following last year's call for nominations for election to Council, a total of 16 nominations were received for the 15 positions on Council. In accordance with the Constitution this required that a postal ballot be held.

Vice-President Peter Hers ZS6PHD has now indicated that he is withdrawing his nomination. This means that a postal ballot will no longer be necessary, and the remaining nominees will automatically take office following the AGM, scheduled for 3rd April 2004 in Johannesburg.

Peter has indicated that he is withdrawing for personal reasons but will continue to support the SARL, and play an active role in support of the new Council. In his letter of withdrawal he states: "I got involved in SARL matters last year in an honest attempt to resolve the difficulties in which the SARL found itself. It was not my intention to get elected onto Council. I have found that SARL matters have occupied a large proportion of my time to the detriment of my personal life, and prevented progress on some major personal projects. I will continue with my responsibilities on Council until the AGM, and will be available to assist the new Council in a limited capacity should it so desire. I wish the new Council all success in its endeavours to strengthen the SARL and develop our hobby in the future."

CALL TO MEMBERS TO UPDATE EMAIL ADDRESSES

How many SARL members have access to the Internet? A recent survey indicates that over 70% of members have email addresses, and the percentage is increasing steadily.

This trend has important advantages for the SARL, as it will allow the SARL to substantially reduce postage costs. Last year, for example, it cost the SARL around R2-40 to print and mail each renewal notice via the normal mail system, resulting in a total cost to members of almost R5000. Further costs are incurred when reminders are sent out to those who do not respond within a few months. These costs would come down to less than R250 if all SARL members could be contacted via email.

Members who do have email accounts are requested to check that the SARL has the correct email address. This can be done online by accessing the callbook on the SARL web site at www.sarl.org.za/callbook.asp. Any corrections can be submitted directly from the website. You do not need to be a member of the SARL to check your entry.

Corrections can also be sent via email to admin@sarl.org.za, by fax to (011) 675-2793, or even via snail mail to PO Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735.

Please help your society to reduce unnecessary costs!

EAST RAND CLUB SAYS THANKYOU

A word of thanks to all the East Rand Hams that helped out on Kids Day 14 Feb at the East Rand Mall. The East Rand Radio Club distributed over 300 flyers promoting Ham Radio and juniors had the opportunity to talk on the radio. The next club meeting is on 20 March 2004 at the clubhouse at Olympia Park in Springs. See you there.

MEGA FLEAMARKET IN PRETORIA

Next Saturday, 28 February, visit the always popular Mega fleamarket of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club. It starts at 09:00 at the usual place on the South-Campus of the University of Pretoria, at the corner of University and Lynnwood roads. The usual mouthwatering refreshments will be again available. Phone Almero ZR6RY on (H)(012) 567 3722 or 082 908 3359 if you want to book a table or if you need more detail about the fleamarket.

ECHO SATELLITE TESTING

The following item comes from the AMSAT news bulletin: A web site has been created which shows the integration and lab testing of the Echo Satellite. It contains images of the modules and on-air recordings of the testing taken in December 2003 at SpaceQuest in Fairfax, VA

The site can be found at: <http://web.infoave.net/~mkmk518/echo.htm>

SOLAR ACTIVITY

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reported that, average daily sunspot numbers were down a little from a week earlier, as were the daily solar flux numbers. Average daily planetary A index was slightly higher. Geomagnetic indices settled down February 16-19 to yield some nice HF conditions. There weren't many sunspots, so the MUF wasn't as high as it was, say, several years ago, but the quiet conditions are a welcome respite from the stormy geomagnetic conditions of late.

The quiet conditions should continue though this weekend—good news for those participating in the ARRL International DX Contest (CW). Predicted planetary A index for Friday through Monday, February 20-23, is 10, 10, 12 and 12. Solar flux is expected to stay below 100 until around Leap Year Day, February 29.

We are indebted to the ARRL newsletter for the previous news item.

ACTIVITIES IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE

28 February - the Mega flea market of the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club at the already well known site. 29 February - The President's net; and the same day is the closing date for entries in the SAARDT design competition.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also

many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX